

In re Patent Application of:
SONZOGNI ET AL.
Serial No. 09/914,315
Filing Date: **AUGUST 24, 2001**

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of the present application. Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for allowing Claims 37-39 and 41-44. The informality in dependent Claim 40 has been corrected as helpfully noted by the Examiner. In addition, the same informality was corrected in dependent Claims 7, 15, 22 and 31. The claims have been amended to more clearly define the present invention over the cited prior art references. The claim amendments and arguments supporting patentability of the claims are presented in detail below.

I. The Amended Claims Are Patentable

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 5, 14, 20 and 29 over the Swartz patent in view of the Pockrandt et al. patent. The present invention, as recited in amended independent Claim 5, for example, is directed a chip card comprising a microprocessor including an operating system working with a set of instructions. The microprocessor comprises a first register for storing a multibit identification code identifying an entity to be executed. The set of instructions include a call instruction for calling based upon the multibit identification code a new entity to be executed, and for updating the first register during execution of the new entity by storing therein a first label associated with the entity being executed.

A memory is connected to the microprocessor for storing a plurality of application programs. A first link is connected to the microprocessor for transmitting the multibit identification code, and a checking device is connected to the

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first link for receiving the multibit identification code. The checking device checks whether access to locations in the memory is authorized for the new entity by comparing the first label with a second label. The second label is associated with the plurality of application programs in the memory or with the locations in the memory. The second label is also being used for initiating reading of one of the plurality of application programs therein.

The chip card in accordance with the present invention enables management of different software application programs while providing high security. Before access is granted to locations in the memory within the chip card, the checking device compares the first and second labels. The chip card advantageously detects when the user of an application program tries to exceed his rights, for example, by attempting to access data not intended for the application program in question.

Referring now to the Swartz patent, and to FIG. 4 in particular, a chip card 1 comprises a microprocessor 2c, wherein the microprocessor includes a first register for storing a microcode 10a. A memory 5 is connected to the microprocessor 2c for storing a plurality of application programs. The chip card 1 provides protection from unauthorized data modification by using an internal calculator 14 to decode the microcode 10a before data is exchanged with the memory 5.

The Examiner cited the Pockrandt et al. patent as disclosing a checking process for preventing unauthorized modification of data in a chip card by setting a check bit in a check register according to a command processed by a central

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processing unit. Any data modification takes place after the check process and permission is given afterwards. Reference is directed to column 2, lines 15-27 of Pockrandt et al., which provides:

"In a method according to the invention, a check bit is set in a check register before performing a check for permission to make a data modification in a memory region of the nonvolatile memory, which can be done, for instance, by polling a secret number. After permission has been checked and before the data modification itself, a check is then made as to whether or not the check bit has been set."
(Emphasis added).

The Applicants respectfully submit that even if the references were combined as suggested by the Examiner, the claimed invention is still not produced. Swartz discloses decoding of a microcode before a memory location is accessed, and Pockrandt et al. discloses the use of a check bit for determining whether a memory location can be accessed. ,

In sharp contrast, the claimed invention, as recited in amended independent Claim 5, recites that before access is granted to locations in the memory within the chip card, the checking device compares the first and second labels. The first label corresponds to the entity being executed, and the second label corresponds to the plurality of application programs in the memory or to the locations in the memory. Swartz and Pockrandt et al. fail to teach or suggest such a combination.

Accordingly, it is submitted that amended independent Claim is patentable over Swartz in view of

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Pockrandt et al. Independent Claims 14, 20 and 29 have been amended similar to amended independent Claim 5, and it is submitted that these claims are also patentable over the Swartz patent in view of the Pockrandt et al. patent. In view of the patentability of the amended independent Claims 5, 14, 20 and 29, it is submitted that their dependent claims which recite yet further distinguishing features of the invention are also patentable. These dependent claims need no further discussion herein.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments provided herein, it is submitted that all the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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